

# Restoring Infrastructure



Photo by Alejandro Chicheri

Years of unrest in Afghanistan, followed by Taliban rule, left public infrastructure in ruin. All sectors of the economy struggle when poor roads prevent the transport of goods, or a shortage of clean water affects a community's health.

USAID is working to bring back the basics to Afghanistan. The beginning of the reconstruction of the Kabul-Kandahar-Herat Highway revitalized entire villages. The reopened Salang Tunnel, high in the mountains, has cut more than two and a half days off common trips. These projects are key to the redevelopment of Afghanistan.

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- Reopened the Salang Tunnel and made preparations for keeping it open during the winter. More than 1,000 vehicles and 8,000 people use the tunnel every day. Seventy percent of the fuel for Kabul passes through it.
- Completed demining, grading, and leveling through 51 miles of Kabul-Kandahar-Herat Highway, and will begin asphaltting soon.
- Completed over 6,100 water-related projects, including wells, irrigation canals, *karezes*, dams, reservoirs, and potable water systems.
- Supported over 225 spot reconstruction projects such as government buildings, schools, roads, bridges, irrigation systems and other community projects that provide local workers with thousands of days of labor.
- Will rebuild thousands of schools, irrigation systems, and other vital infrastructure in villages adjacent to reconstructed highways.
- Is rehabilitating 2,500 miles of road, is reconstructing 31 bridges, and has kept open an additional three mountain passes.

**Website:** [www.usaid.gov/afghanistan](http://www.usaid.gov/afghanistan)

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